

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been amended herein as follows:

Page 1, between the title of the application and the first paragraph, insert the heading

a2 --Field of the Invention--.

Page 1, between lines 13 and 14, insert the heading --Background of the Invention--.

a3 Page 2, between lines 21 and 22, insert the heading --Brief Description of the Invention--.

a4 Page 6, between lines 6 and 7, insert the heading --Brief Description of the Drawings--.

a5 Page 6, between lines 32 and 33, insert the heading --Detailed Description of the
a6 Invention--.

Please amend the paragraph at lines 14-19 on page 1 as follows:

a7 Apparatus for coating objects by PVD are generally known. They are for instance used to apply a thin layer of metal on plastics to give the object the appearance of metal. Examples hereof are for instance caps for cosmetics bottles, prizes such as presented at sporting events, car components and the like.

Please amend the paragraph at lines 22-26 on page 2 as follows:

a8 The object of the present invention is therefore to provide an apparatus with which metal coating with the associated preceding and following operations can take place as far as possible in an automated manner.

Please amend the paragraph at lines 1-2 on page 4 as follows:

a₉ If the buffers are adapted to move the carriers in a transverse direction, the buffers take up less space.

Please amend the paragraph at lines 5-12 on page 5 as follows:

a₁₀ Loading and unloading are understood to mean operations wherein the carriers remain on the transport path and the processed objects are exchanged for objects for processing, as well as operations wherein the carriers are removed from the transport path in their entirety and are replaced on the transport path and wherein the actual loading and unloading of the carriers takes place at another location.

a₁₁ Please amend the paragraph at lines 16-21 on page 5 as follows:

This measure provides the advantage that the carriers can be used for different types of objects; only the object holders have to be exchanged.. This is particularly important in respect of the cost of the carriers; these carriers after all comprise expensive components manufactured with great precision.

Please amend the paragraph at lines 18-19 on page 8 as follows:

a₁₂ Shown in figure 3 is that part, of the transport device which functions as an unloading station.

✓
Please amend the paragraph at lines 28-36 on page 10 as follows:

B₃
Figure 8 shows in more detail a part of the drive device for transport of carriers 15 inside the vacuum metallization device. The relevant elements are herein mounted on a plate 50, on which are arranged two beams 51 on which guide wheels 52 with guide shafts are mounted. In the middle of each of these beams 51 a guide wheel 52 is further arranged on the other side of the path of the carrier. Finally, support wheels 53 are arranged.

✓
Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 as follows:

C₁₄
Drive wheels 54 are also arranged for driving the carrier 15. Drive wheels 54 are herein driven by means of belts 55. Both belts 55 are trained round a wheel 56 which is driven by a motor mounted beneath the plate. This drawing also shows that a check gate device is again placed in order to determine whether all objects are present on the carrier.

✓
Please amend the paragraph at lines 27-35 on page 11 as follows:

C₁₅
Finally, figure 10 shows the construction of product carriers 15. The product carriers are placed on top of the extension shafts to carry the products for processing. In the present case, the product carriers are formed by a piece of threaded end which can be placed on the extension shaft, wherein discs provided with internal thread can be placed on the threaded ends, the form and position of which discs can be adapted to the relevant products.